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Diocese of Edmonton



Mountain climbing in Jasper Park in the
Diocese of Edmonton.

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THE RIGHT REVEREND
A. E. BURGETT, M.A., D.D.,
Second Bishop of Edmonton,
Consecrated in All Saints' Cathedral,
Edmonton, on Jan. 30th, 1932.

The Bishop's fatherly welcome and care ever given to Arctic Missionaries, who from time to time pass to and fro through Edmonton, the Gateway of the North, is much appreciated by them and by their friends in many parts of Canada.



Exterior of the Cathedral Church of All Saints', Edmonton, which celebrated in September, 1935, the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of this Parish, and the erection on this site of the first Anglican Church in the Province of Alberta.

A beautiful church which replaced the earlier building was opened for service on Jan. 6th, 1896, and in 1914 was made the Pro-Cathedral of the Diocese, but on Dec. 22nd, 1918, was destroyed by fire.

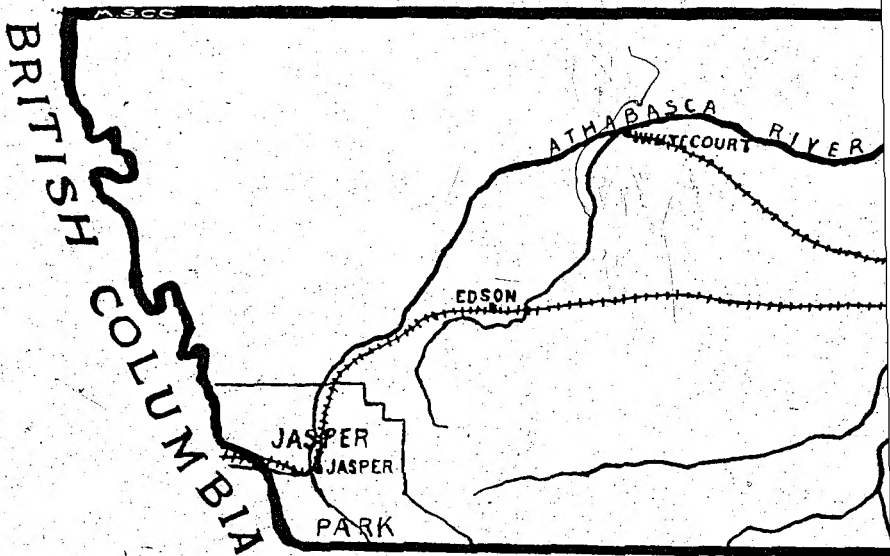
The corner stone of the present structure, which is the Crypt of the proposed Church of the future, to be a fine stone edifice of Gothic Perpendicular design, was laid September 21st, 1921 and two months later, the Crypt of this Church as it now is, was opened for service and dedicated upon the following Sunday by the Bishop, Right Rev. Henry Allen Gray.

Beneath the chancel window of this Church, in St. Mary's cemetery is buried The Right Rev. John McLean, pioneer Bishop of Saskatchewan, the mother diocese of four dioceses, of which Edmonton is one. His monument bears this Inscription—

Entered into the rest of Paradise, Nov. 7th, 1886.
John McLean, the first Bishop of Saskatchewan in his 58th year.

"I believe in the communion of saints."

IN THE DIOCESE

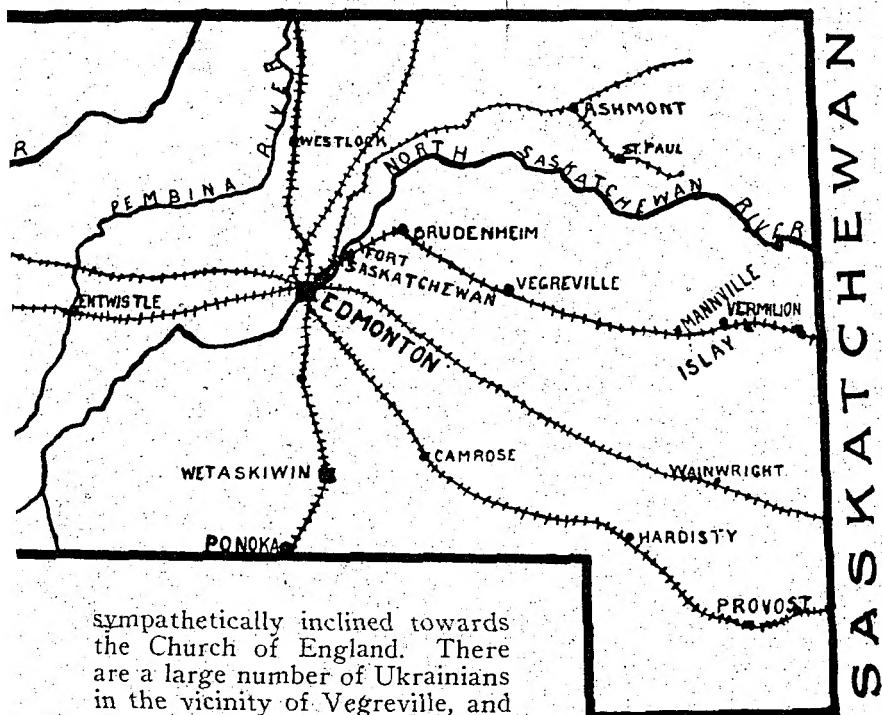


THE Diocese of Edmonton was separated from the Diocese of Calgary by action of the Provincial Synod of Rupert's Land in August, 1919. This Diocese, therefore, shares in the heritage of a great tradition of early missionary work done by heroic founders in those historic areas, now become dioceses, in the great Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land.

The Diocese of Edmonton comprises the central part of the Province of Alberta and extends from the boundaries of the Province of Saskatchewan westward to the Rocky Mountains. The area is roughly 70,000 sq. miles and the last Government census gives the number of Anglicans within this area as 25,000. The population increased rapidly along the lines of railway extending from the Capital City in 10 different directions, during the immigration years when **White settlers** were entering this country in very large numbers.

In almost every direction large settlements of foreigners are found. These have, however, taken up land chiefly in the North East of the diocese on the St. Paul de Metis Branch of the Canadian National Railway, and to the East of Edmonton in the areas of Vegreville and Vermilion. Many of them are Russians and belong to the Orthodox Church and so are

OF EDMONTON



sympathetically inclined towards the Church of England. There are a large number of Ukrainians in the vicinity of Vegreville, and around Brudenheim is a large group of German settlers. For these people spiritual ministrations should be provided. Lack of funds has made this a question of great difficulty but the duty of helping these new Canadians spiritually is a problem to be faced by the whole Church and is too great to be undertaken by a Western diocese alone.

Our own Church people are for the most part scattered a few here—one there—and here a small settlement—there again a wide area without any of our people. Hence our Missions are large and a Missionary is required to spend much time getting over the ground.

While the majority of these people are still in the homesteading stage, little actual financial support can be contributed by them, either for the maintenance of their Missionary or towards the general needs of the Diocese.

To reach the people of these communities scattered over many miles of territory, the Bishop has the aid of special Diocesan agencies.

Settlers gathered together for a service in a pioneer home by a visiting missionary—11 children were baptized at this service.



SUNDAY SCHOOL BY POST

The number of children enrolled are 4,100, who are scattered over distant parts of the Diocese where no parishes have yet been established. This work is entirely undertaken by Miss Camp, who is appointed by the Bishop, and lives in Edmonton. She sends out Sunday School Lessons by Post every month to these children. During the summer time she endeavours to visit as many of them as possible, in their isolated and distant homes, travelling by motor car.



After a service held at Soda Lake, an area largely settled by foreigners.

Here a settler for many years a member of the Sunday School at St. Paul's Church, Halifax, held a Sunday School class for his own family, and erected this building by voluntary labour, collecting materials from the community.

Members of this Sunday School soon included some of the foreigners in the neighbourhood who have benefitted greatly by this opportunity, both spiritually and in higher ideals of citizenship. This settler is now the Lay Reader in charge here.

In the large mission of Ashmont in the north east of the Diocese, there are at present two young women Church Workers trained at St. Christopher's College, London, and supported by the "**Fellowship of the Maple Leaf**" for this duty, serving under the Bishop's licence to do regular visiting and Sunday School work and to conduct Church services under the direction of a Priest in Charge of the Mission.



Rev. E. W. Webb presents a Confirmation class to the Bishop at St. Alban's, Chailly, a distant point in the diocese.

Another centre of an extensive district, 60 miles north-west of Edmonton, is at present being served by two similar Workers, Miss B. Onions and Miss Kettlewell, who live together in the Vicarage at Onoway. They cover the distances by motor car in the summer and on horseback or by sleigh in the winter, and serve under the direction of the Rev. W. de V. A. Hunt, Missionary at Mayerthorpe, 50 miles north of their residence.

A TRAVELLING MISSIONARY FOR NEWCOMERS

In January, 1935, the Bishop wrote the General Secretary of M.S.C.C. "putting in an **Appeal for help**, to place a Travelling Priest or General Missionary in a large newly opened district greatly in need of such service." He wrote, "Such a man should be appointed **this** year—but I have no funds. Is there any hope of receiving a special grant to assist me in this much needed work?"

He enclosed a letter from a recently arrived Anglican resident of this new district which said—"People have flocked here from the south and elsewhere. The railway has come in and the community is growing and it seems likely

to become an important place. Last summer the Mormons held services in the district and one or two other services have been held at times, but as a rule Sunday is like any other day to many. There are dozens and dozens of children . . . There was no service on Christmas Day.

What about this population, filling up this North country with no opportunities to attend the Lord's Supper or ever attend a Christian Service? We are getting old and I do not want to live and die without hearing the dear old service of my Church again—and what about all the children?"

"The people in here are not very well off so I do not know what financial help can be given—any Missioner coming is welcome to our home and any help we can give. The population at the chief settlement is 250 to 300 during busy seasons."

This District and its needs—along the railway extending far beyond Ashmont to Cold Lake, was only too well known to the Bishop.

The M.S.C.C. Board of Management made the following response to this appeal—At the meeting of the Executive Committee M.S.C.C. held at Calgary on September 16th, 1935, the following resolution was passed and was confirmed by the Board of Management on Sept. 17th:—

"That having heard the urgency of existing needs in . . . Dioceses, the following special annual grants for the years 1935-36-37 for ministration to the people in question be made to . . . the Diocese of Edmonton, \$1,000, and should occasion arise (shortage of apportionments) the



Settlers who have come in from the south.



The travelling missionary, supported by the M.S.C.C. Special Grant, with part of his congregation after the Baptism of 16 children, in the little Church at Ashmont.

Committee will be compelled to appropriate the amount required in part or even in whole, from the Settlers' Church Extension Fund (A.F.M.)."

The Travelling Missionary, Rev. W. T. Elkin, an unmarried priest, accepted this call and is now at work in this widespread Mission as one of our pictures shows, taken during the past Summer.

A NURSING CENTRE

A new and interesting project of the Bishop of Edmonton is being put into shape in the "Drayton Valley District", south of Entwistle, in the southwestern part of the Diocese, "in the foot hills." Here three large lumber mills are at work and about five hundred families are living.

To quote the Bishop, "There is in this large district, no Church, no Sunday School, no Missionary, no Doctor, and no Nurse."

The Bishop's plans have at last matured and are now being carried forward with generous support from "the Fellowship of the Maple Leaf" in England, who are supplying certain of the building expenses, and for two years the upkeep, medical supplies and the support of a nurse-in-charge and that of a "Church Worker," who will together carry on the beneficent and educational work, of which this Depot is to be the centre.

The nurse-in-charge is to be Miss Rowles, a graduate of the General Hospital at Calgary, herself the daughter of a settler and who has already been a worker for her Church at

Empress, Saskatchewan. She is now taking a course at the "Nursing Centre for Settlers" of the Government of Alberta at Alder Flats.

The "Church Worker" chosen is Miss Groves, a "Maple Leaf Worker" who has during the past two years been doing most useful work in the large mission area of Ashmont in the Northwest of the Diocese.

In the Nursing Centre there will be two bed-rooms, a living-room, a kitchen and a wood shed with bathroom. There will also be a Dispensary with a commodious Supply cupboard. All will be heated by stoves.

The Bishop is now concerned over the matter of furnishings and also with the necessities for the Supply Cupboard.

The former will be chairs, tables, stoves, beds and bedding and other necessities for a simple household.

Articles for the latter will be such as can be carried to needy people at time of illness or other emergency—cans of invalid food, layettes and other supplies for maternity cases.



At the Indian Church at Frog Lake Indian Reserve, after a service held by the Indian Lay Reader, who is seen at the right of a group of some of the younger members of his congregation.

There are about 500 Indians on this Reserve, which is visited regularly by a Missionary priest of the area in which the Reserve is situated. This is the only Anglican Indian centre in this Diocese.

Other suggestions will no doubt be received from the Bishop as this Institution gets to work.

The residents in the district will give the necessary lumber, cut by their mill to meet the requirements and also free labour for the erection of the building and they will supply the Centre with water, wood for fuel and the necessary transportation.

So ready are they to do this that the wood for the building has already been cut and is piled near the site to dry. This spirit of readiness to advance the work of the Church by every means at their command is a most encouraging characteristic of the people of this country.

Self-support is noticeably strong and is progressing in the Diocese of Edmonton, but members of the Church have been under a great strain in meeting their Apportionment—which they do in full, and in the carrying on of their part in the missionary work, which has suffered in the last three years from the falling off of grants from the M.S.C.C.

There are only two parishes outside the City of Edmonton which are as yet self-supporting, so that while the spirit of self-support is being carefully nurtured, the Diocese is handicapped by this situation.

There are 41 clergy including the Bishop; 1 Lay Reader in charge of a parish, and 20 voluntary Lay Readers.

Ten of our missionaries are entirely dependent upon M.S.C.C. grants for their support.

There are several districts urgently needing services and a resident priest, but as long as the Diocese only receives half of its M.S.C.C. grant, it is impossible to extend ministrations to these districts although urgently asked by them to do so.

Grants and Apportionments—Owing to the parishes and dioceses throughout Canada not paying their Apportionments in full to M.S.C.C., the total receipts on these Grants for Edmonton in the last two years, were—\$4,100 out of an amount “voted” of \$9,500; and \$3,400 of the hoped-for amount of \$6,000.

It is earnestly hoped that the Dioceses in Canada will make every effort to pay their apportionments in full this year, so that these greatly needed grants made to the missionary dioceses may also be paid in full. Otherwise the work of the Church of England in Canada entrusted to them cannot be adequately carried on.